

**Town of Arlington  
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Monday, August 30, 2001 7:00 PM

Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Larry Englisher, Ralph Elwell, Lt. Jim McHugh (Police Department), Michael Rademacher, Mark Shea (Public Works), Scott Smith, Ed Starr, David Walkinshaw, and Bill Carroll (Fay, Spofford, Thorndike)

**Minutes of 7/30/01 meeting**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Summer Street Project**

Bill Carroll presented the current (75%) plans for the Summer Street project.

- Project scope is 1.75 mi, from the Lexington line to and including the Brattle Street and Hospital Road intersections
- Current average daily traffic (ADT) is about 14,000 near Brattle Street, and 8,000 west of Forest Street.
- Summer street new roadway with new curbing, sidewalks and storm drain collection system, funded with State money. Side streets will be rebuilt to about 150' up from Summer Street. A 30 mph design speed is planned. Some parallel parking to be provided near Reeds Brook. No passing zone throughout. The intersections will be designed to permit school buses to negotiate the corners. The road will be turned over to the Town when done, although it will still be a numbered state highway.
- Lane width: Current width is 12' with no shoulder. Planned is a 12' lane plus a 4' shoulder. Needed an exemption from Mass Highway to do this (the standard calls for an 8' shoulder)
- Continuous sidewalk on the South side, 5-6' wide with some buffer strip when space permits. The North side will have a sidewalk except for the Lexington Line to Orient St, and near the ledge by Overlook Road. Sidewalk will include the required wheelchair ramps
- Redesign of the Forest Street intersection to make it a T intersection
- New traffic actuated signals at Park Street extension, Forest Street, Overlook and Brattle St. Conduits only provided for connecting signals at Hospital Road
- Currently aiming for 100% plans in November 2001.

The committee had three requests:

- Ensure that all signalized intersection approaches have traffic detectors that can detect bicycles.
- Consider moving the crosswalks at Park Ave Extension closer to the actual intersection. With the current design, cars are likely to stop on or beyond the crosswalk, and pedestrians will have to walk far out of their way to use the crosswalk.

- Put a dashed yellow center line through the Brattle Street intersection, to better guide through and left-turning vehicles on Summer Street.

At the end of this discussion (8:45 PM), Bill Carroll and Mark Shea departed.

### **Louis Berger Group Synopsis of the 7/17 meeting**

No synopsis has been received from LBG.

### **Publicity for the 9/13 public meeting**

Members of the committee will put flyers up in their parts of town, and will notify their constituent groups. We noted that the placement of flyers in stores was very frustrating, and probably not worthwhile. Other activities will include the following:

- Inform local Cable about the 9/13 meeting – Elisabeth
- Deliver extra flyers to the Selectman’s office – Elisabeth
- Mail flyers to church contacts – David
- Call Mark Shea about the sign in front of Town Hall – Ed
- Letter to Advocate – Ed
- Town web site – Scott to follow up with Bob Sprague
- Obtain transportation to the meeting (Senior Van) – Ed to call Patsy Kramer
- Follow up with Alan McClennen on the process suggestions for the public meeting (noted in the 7/30 minutes) - Ed

### **Third public meeting**

We agreed that the third meeting would be from 6 – 8 PM. This will facilitate attendance by those who work in town and/or do not like to be out late. The proposed date is either October 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. Ed will speak with Alan McClennen to get confirmation from LBG.

### **Town Day Survey**

The survey was unanimously approved. Larry will have copies made. Town Day distribution will be at the following tables:

- Bicycle Committee (Scott)
- Vision 2020 (Ed)
- Walking in Arlington (Elisabeth)

### **Meeting Dates**

Due to conflicts, Thursday is no longer an ideal meeting date. We agreed to shift our meeting date to the third Wednesday of each month, starting in October. Therefore, future meetings are now tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 20 and then the following Wednesdays: 10/17, 11/14, 12/19.

## **Accident Data Working Group**

On 8/13, Scott met with Capt. Coughlin and Lt. McLaughlin of the Police Department to request more detailed crash records. He and Lt. McHugh will follow up.

## **Processes Working Group**

We noted that has not been as much interaction with the consultant as expected. There was some discussion of this committee's role, which seems to be falling into three areas:

- Individual activism
- Town "traffic engineer". We noted that this is not the intended role for the committee
- Long term planning and vision on transportation issues

## **Stop Sign Project**

Scott had circulated the Portland, Oregon guidelines to the committee, and Ed suggested we start with an inventory of current signage. Larry suggested we obtain the services of co-op students, perhaps from Northeastern, to do some of the work. This suggestion was well received.

**The meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.**

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## **MEETING HANDOUTS**

Agenda – from Ed Starr

Minutes from 7/30/01 meeting – from Scott Smith

Map of Schools and MBTA services – from Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Draft Symmes Response – from Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Publicity checklist for 9/13 – from Ed Starr

Flyer for 9/13 – from Scott Smith

Town Day Survey – from Larry Englisher

Committee Process Flow Chart – from Ed Starr